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GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF ALABAMA
WALTER B. JONES, STATE GEOLOGIST

MUSEUM PAPER 24
ALABAMA MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

THE WHITESBURG BRIDGE SITE MA^V10

By
WM. S. WEBB
and
DAVID L. DeJARNETTE

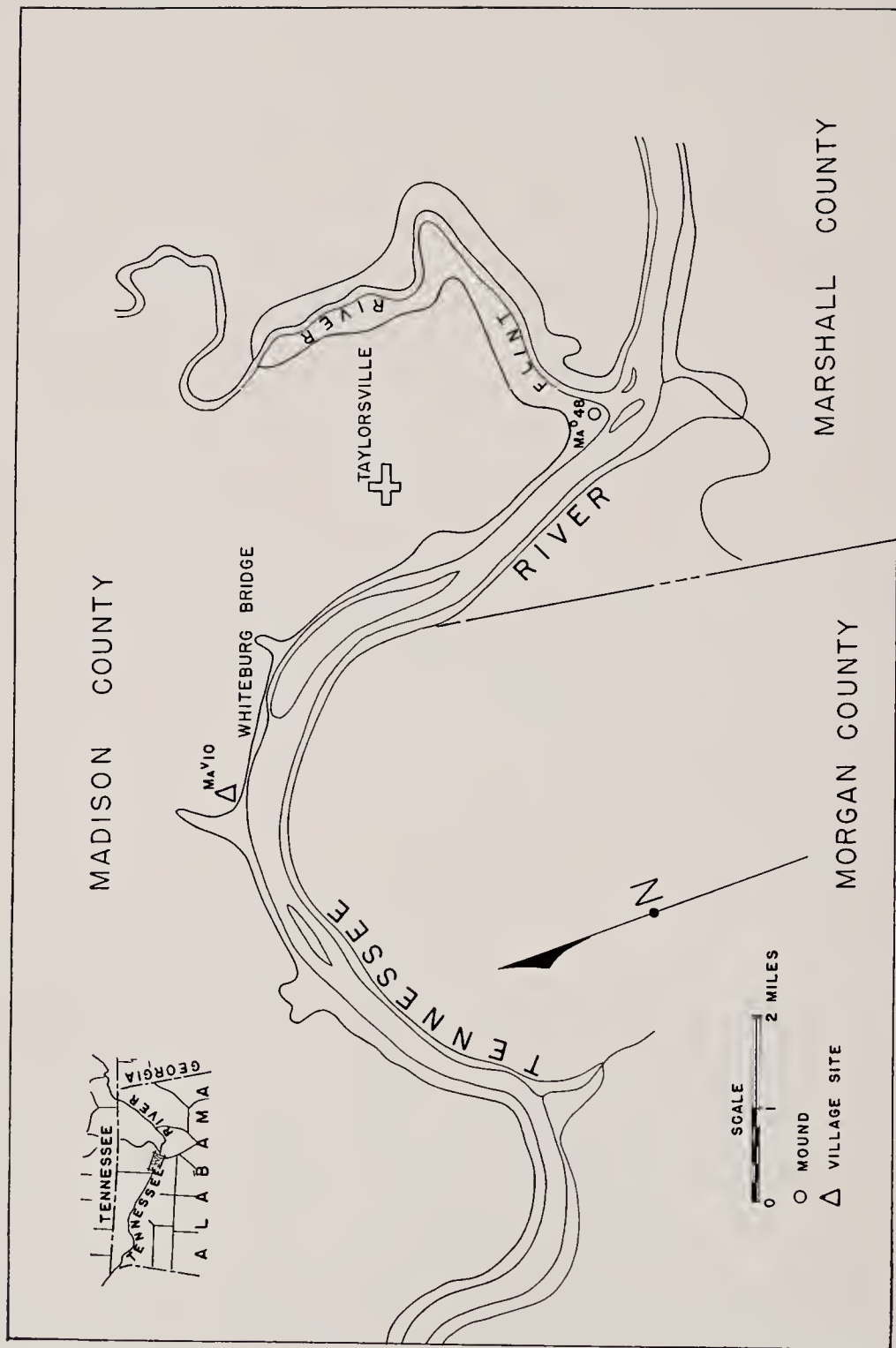


Prepared with the Assistance of the Work Projects Administration
and with the Cooperation of the Tennessee Valley Authority

1948

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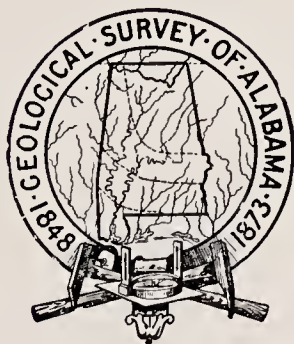
Map of portion of Tennessee River showing location of the Whitesburg Bridge Site, Mav10.

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LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

University, Alabama
May 11, 1948

Honorable James E. Folsom
Governor of Alabama
Montgomery, Alabama

Sir:

I have the honor to transmit herewith the manuscript of a report on "The Whitesburg Bridge Site, May 10," by William S. Webb and David L. DeJarnette. It is requested that this be printed as Museum Paper 24 of the Alabama Museum of Natural History.

Respectfully,

WALTER B. JONES,
State Geologist.

INTRODUCTION

For a period of some eighteen months prior to the completion of the Guntersville Dam on the Tennessee River, January 16, 1939, an archaeological survey of Guntersville Basin was conducted by the Tennessee Valley Authority in cooperation with the Alabama Museum of Natural History. Many of the most important sites in the area were excavated, using W. P. A. labor for field work. An archaeological laboratory was also set up at Birmingham for processing the material recovered from these excavations. Here skilled and semi-skilled W. P. A. labor was trained and used in the cleaning, restoration and preservation of archaeological material and the records relative to it. While this cooperative project was in operation, additional W. P. A. labor became available in the vicinity of Huntsville, Alabama. At the same time it became known that a number of important archaeological sites in Pickwick and Wheeler basins, which were marginal to the lakes, were being seriously damaged by the high water table. Since it had not been possible previously to excavate these important sites and because of the impending serious damage to them, it was determined to use the available W. P. A. labor for excavation of such sites as were then accessible.

The subject of this report, the Whitesburg Bridge Site, Madison County, Alabama, designated Ma^v10, was chosen for investigation because of its importance, the proximity of labor, and the site's accessibility. The general location of this site is shown in the map forming the frontispiece of this report. The survey and excavation of this site was begun January 26, 1939, under the direction of Mr. H. Summerfield Day. Under his supervision the site was cleared, staked, and excavation started. Since it was obviously a shell midden, it was determined to use the "block technique" which has been found to have certain advantages in the study of shell middens. In March, 1939, Mr. Hugh Capps was placed in charge of the site and Mr. Day resumed work on the important site Ma^o48. The investigation of Site Ma^v10 continued to the spring of 1940. After the resignation of Mr. Capps in February, 1940, Mr. Day again took charge and continued the excavation to April, 1940. After an expenditure of some 4,800 man-days labor, the site was abandoned, a fair sample of its prehistoric record having been obtained.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The authors express their appreciation of the work of Messrs. Day and Capps at this site since a considerable body of information was gathered under field conditions, which were sometimes very difficult. One unusual feature of the excavation was the employment for the last seven months of a negro crew made up of both men and women. This was made necessary because of the excess of unemployed negro women on the W. P. A. rolls of Madison County. After slight modifications of the techniques of excavation were made in order to conform to W. P. A. regulations governing the employment of women in the field, the work proceeded in an efficient manner. It was thus demonstrated that a mixed crew properly guided could do satisfactory field excavation. Figure 1 shows this crew at work November 8, 1939.

The authors wish to express their appreciation to Dr. Lawrence L. Durisch of the Tennessee Valley Authority and to Dr. Walter B. Jones, Director of the Alabama Museum of Natural History, for the many services which the institutions represented by them rendered in this cooperative endeavor in archaeological conservation.

The material from this excavation was processed at the Central Archaeological Laboratory at Birmingham.

The authors acknowledge with pleasure the service rendered by Mr. Harold F. Dahms, supervisor of the Central Laboratory, in arranging for the compilation of data on material from this site.

Miss Marion L. Dunlevy, pottery specialist, studied the pottery at this site. Her findings are included herein as a valuable addition to this report.

Mr. James R. Foster, Junior Archaeologist, Tennessee Valley Authority, prepared the tabulation showing depth distribution of the flint types, as published herein. This is the result of his careful analysis and comparison of flint types found at this site.

To Miss Dunlevy and Mr. Foster, the authors express their thanks.



Figure 1. Showing working crew composed of both men and women, excavating by the block technique, Nov. 8, 1939.

WHITESBURG BRIDGE SITE

Ma^v10

This site is located on the immediate north bank of the Tennessee River, 10 miles from Huntsville on the Whitesburg Pike. It is about 100 feet west of the Whitesburg Bridge, and extends along the river for about 350 feet (see Figure 2-a). The midden deposit extends northward from the river about 100 feet. The surface is about 15 feet above normal river level.

This site has been used in historic times for a variety of purposes. Prior to the Civil War a dwelling house occupied the site for many years. Later the landing of Port Huntsville was located there. The wharf and warehouses were erected on this midden and the port became the center of considerable commercial activity in the transportation of freight and passengers by river steamboat. After competition by the railroads made the river steamer unprofitable, the port was abandoned. Some 50 years ago a cotton gin was erected on the site and operated for many years. For the past two decades the site has been in cultivation. Recently, the construction of Whitesburg Bridge caused the site to be covered with construction material, and made necessary further disturbance of the midden by sinking "dead men" for the attachment of steel cables. The site has thus been subjected to much disturbance within the historic period by white occupancy. The river has also caused some loss on the southern edge by erosion, and the site has been inundated a number of times during periods of high water.

This site is a typical shell midden deposit about 6 feet deep at the river face. This depth rapidly diminishes northward from the river bank. It appears that the builders of this midden lived on the natural levee of the river casting out the shell on the river bank. As the shell deposit rose in height, it was spread northward to a feather edge of zero thickness, while the erosion of the river constantly cut away the southern edge to keep a deep profile exposed.

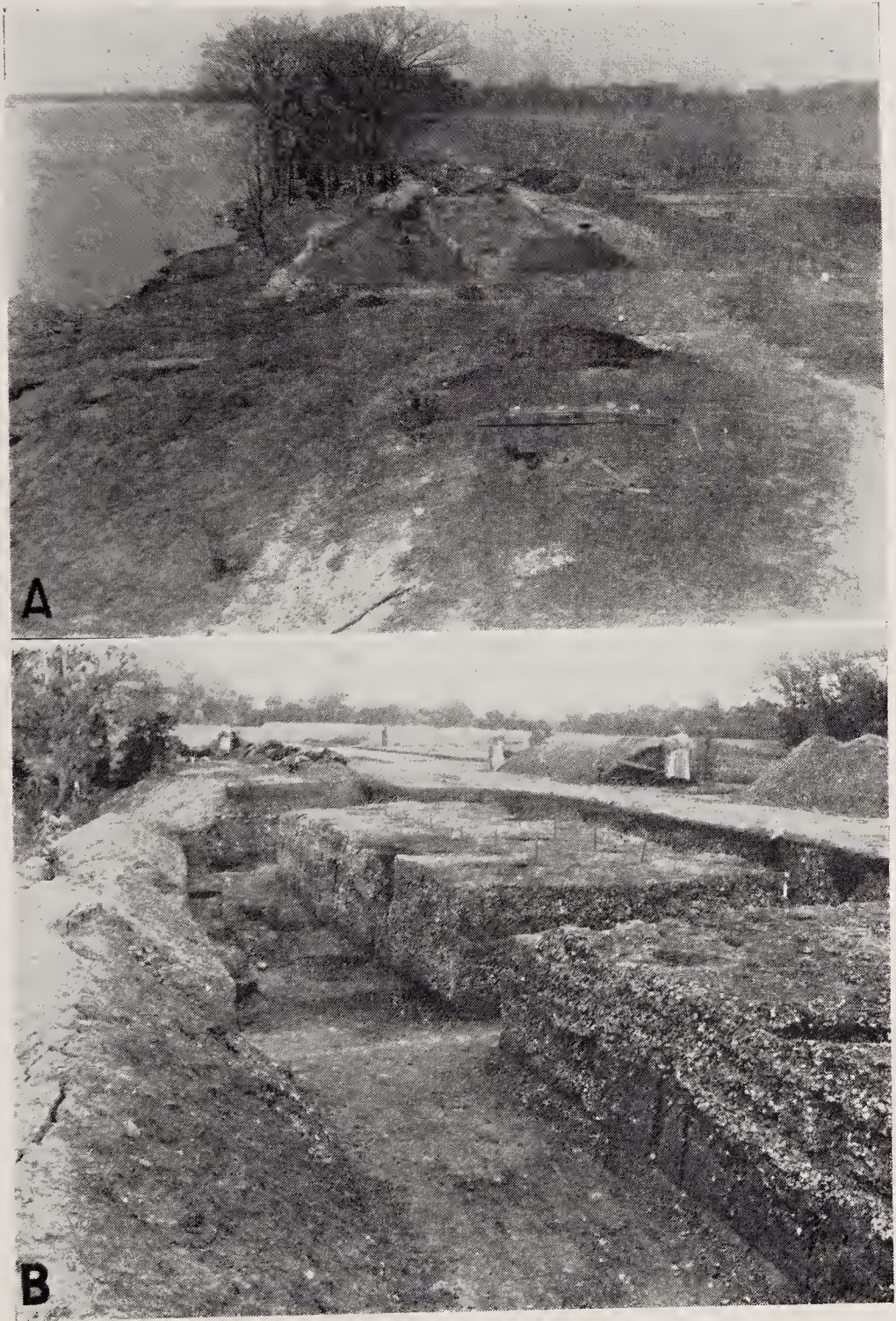


Figure 2. (a) General view of Mav10 from Whitesburg Bridge.
(b) Blocks 1 and 2, Zone D, exposed.

Trench System

The site was staked in 5-foot squares, from a zero line laid south to north and a base line extending east and west approximately on the edge of the river bank.

East-west exploratory trenches were then run, the 15-foot trench from the zero line east (left) 200 feet, and the 55-foot trench east-west from L 200 to R 100. Blocks were then isolated, Nos. 1 and 2 at the river edge (see Figure 2-b), and Nos. 3, 4, and 5 on the northern border of the deposit, as shown in Ground Plan, Figure 3.

As the isolating trenches were dug, all material was designated by its trench, but no attempt was made to record levels. This accounts for artifacts reported in the general summary as from trenches, level undetermined. Blocks were taken down in the order 3, 2, 1, 4, 5.

Natural Zones

Since Block 3 was the first excavated, the natural zones were described by their exposure in the 55-foot trench. These may be described briefly from the top down as:

Zone A. A sandy loam, the plow zone, about 6 inches thick with scattered shell.

Zone B. A black organic clay, with scattered shell and little cultural material, about 1 foot thick.

Zone C. A yellow clay, clean, nearly sterile layer, about 1 foot thick. Extending in the 55-foot trench from L-23 to the edge of the excavation at R-100.

Zone D. An almost pure concentration of shell containing much cultural material. This zone varied much in thickness from 3.5 feet at L-25 to zero thickness at R-65.

Zone E. A deposit of sandy clay, the top first foot of which had received shell and cultural material from Zone D above it.

West of L-25 in the 55-foot trench, Zone C disappeared and Zone B lay directly on Zone D. West of L-180 in this trench,

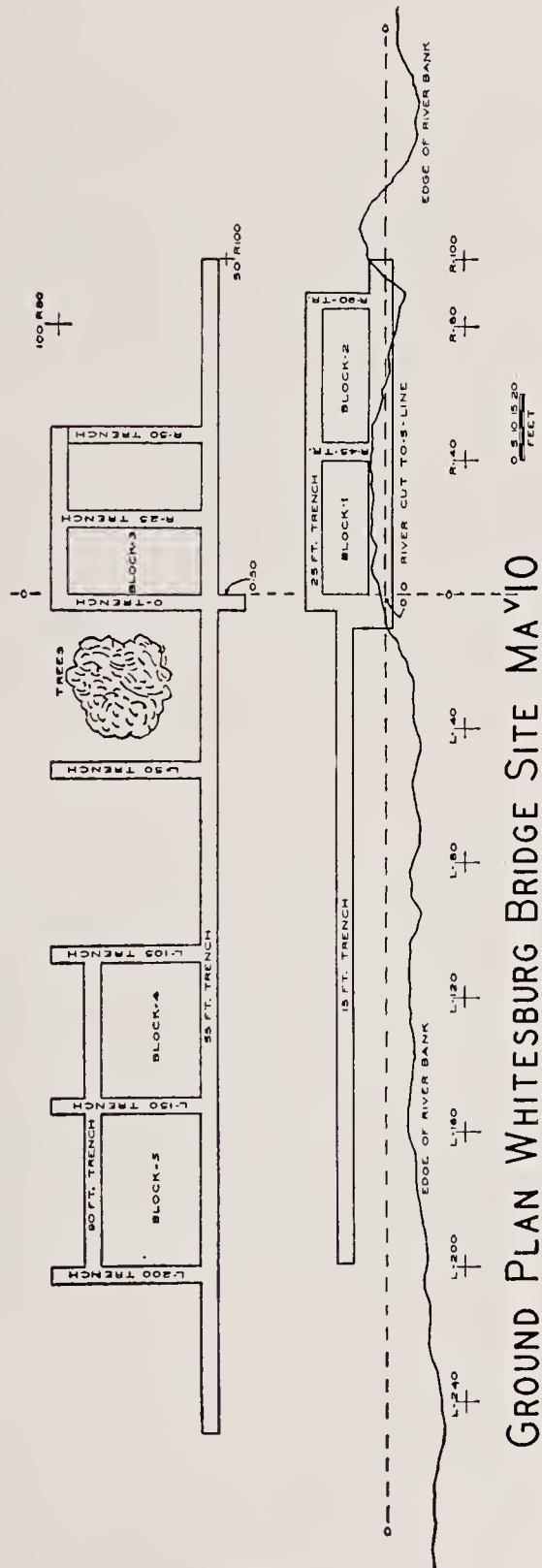


Figure 3.

Zone E began to show isolated lenses of concentrated clean shell, as if on a river-deposited sand, shell had been laid down in concentrated lenses, and later covered by further deposition of sand.

In order to understand this site and the depth distribution of material, it must be remembered that Zone C underlies only Block B; that in Blocks 4 and 5, Zone D is relatively thin and the whole midden deposit is only about 4 feet deep, while in the case of Blocks 1 and 2, Zone D is very deep—nearly 3.5 feet on the average—and there the whole midden is about 6 feet deep.

It appears from a study of the profiles that Zone D carries most of the cultural material other than pottery because it is the thickest zone (see Figure 4-a) and the early occupancy was concentrated in that zone. Zones A and B, on the other hand, carry nearly all of the pottery, so much so as to make sure that Zone D is pre-pottery, as shown in tabulation of pottery from Blocks 1, 2 and 3. In Blocks 4 and 5, not excavated by zones, the pottery is practically all in the upper two feet which roughly corresponds to Zones A and B for these blocks. Block 3 was excavated by zones. Block 2 was excavated by first removing Zones A and B, keeping all material separated by zones, and the remainder was excavated by foot levels. It is to be remembered that there was no Zone C at this point and Zone D was about 3.5 feet deep (see Figure 4-b). Thus the 4-foot level below the top of Zone D would carry the last 6 inches of Zone D and the top 6 inches of Zone E. This material is recorded as Zone D and E. The remainder of Zone E was about 1 foot thick and it was excavated together.

Block 1 was excavated by first removing Zone A, and the remainder in 1-foot levels.

Features

Twenty-nine special features were recorded as follows:

Circular fire pits in the shell	7
Fired clay hearth areas	10
Concentration of gastropods	1
Fire basins floored with river pebbles	2
Dog burials	9
Total	29

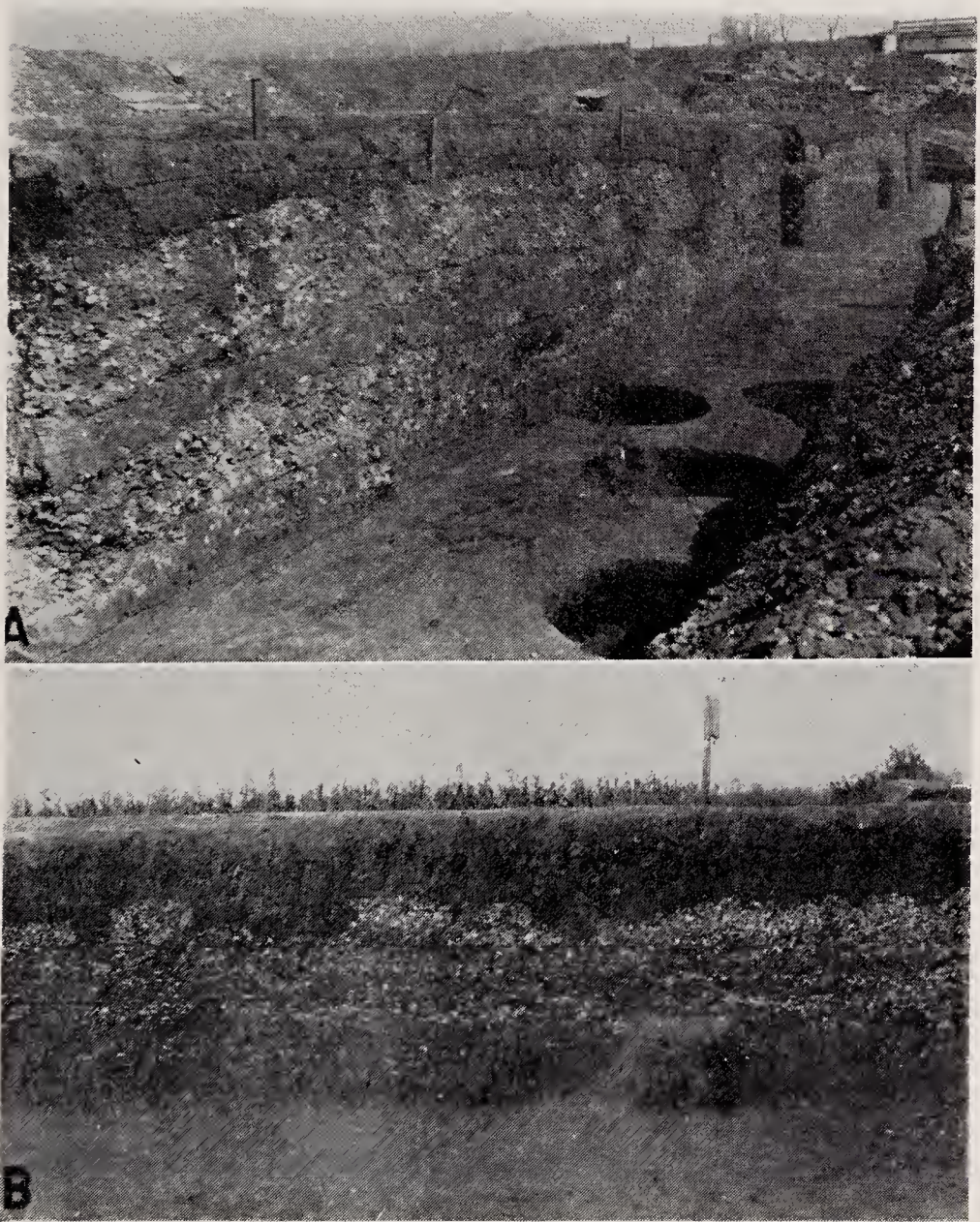


Figure 4. (a) Blocks 1 and 2, showing five foot profile.

(b) Blocks 1 and 2, showing twenty-five foot profile, North face.

These fire pits, containing ashes, charcoal and burned bone, are found in all shell mounds. They were evidently designed as places for cooking, where discarded animal bones were thrown in the fire.

The basins, floored with river pebbles, suggest "hot rock cooking," evidence of which is often found in shell mounds. The fire hearths were areas covered by layers of clay on which fire had burned to harden and discolor the clay. These fire basins and hearths were found at all levels in the midden and showed no evidence of stratigraphy. Dog burials occurred at depths from .4 foot to 4.3 feet. One was in Zone A, one in Zone B, and seven in Zone D. None were in direct association with human graves.

Many circular pits were found dug into the sand base below Zone E. These pits were filled with the shell midden, but contained no burial or any evidence of their purpose, so were not listed as features. They may have been storage bins or midden pits, but their content was not different from that of Zone E. Some are shown in Figure 4-a.

Burials

One hundred and seventeen burials were recorded, distributed as to type as follows:

Fully flexed	57
Partially flexed	25
Sitting burials	16
Disturbed	16
Extended	2
Reburial of bones.....	1
<hr/>	
Total.....	117

Burials in general in this site were very poorly preserved. There had been the usual amount of digging in the midden in prehistoric time, and white occupancy in building foundations for house, cotton gin, and bridge construction had added to the prehistoric disturbance of burials. Another factor which tended

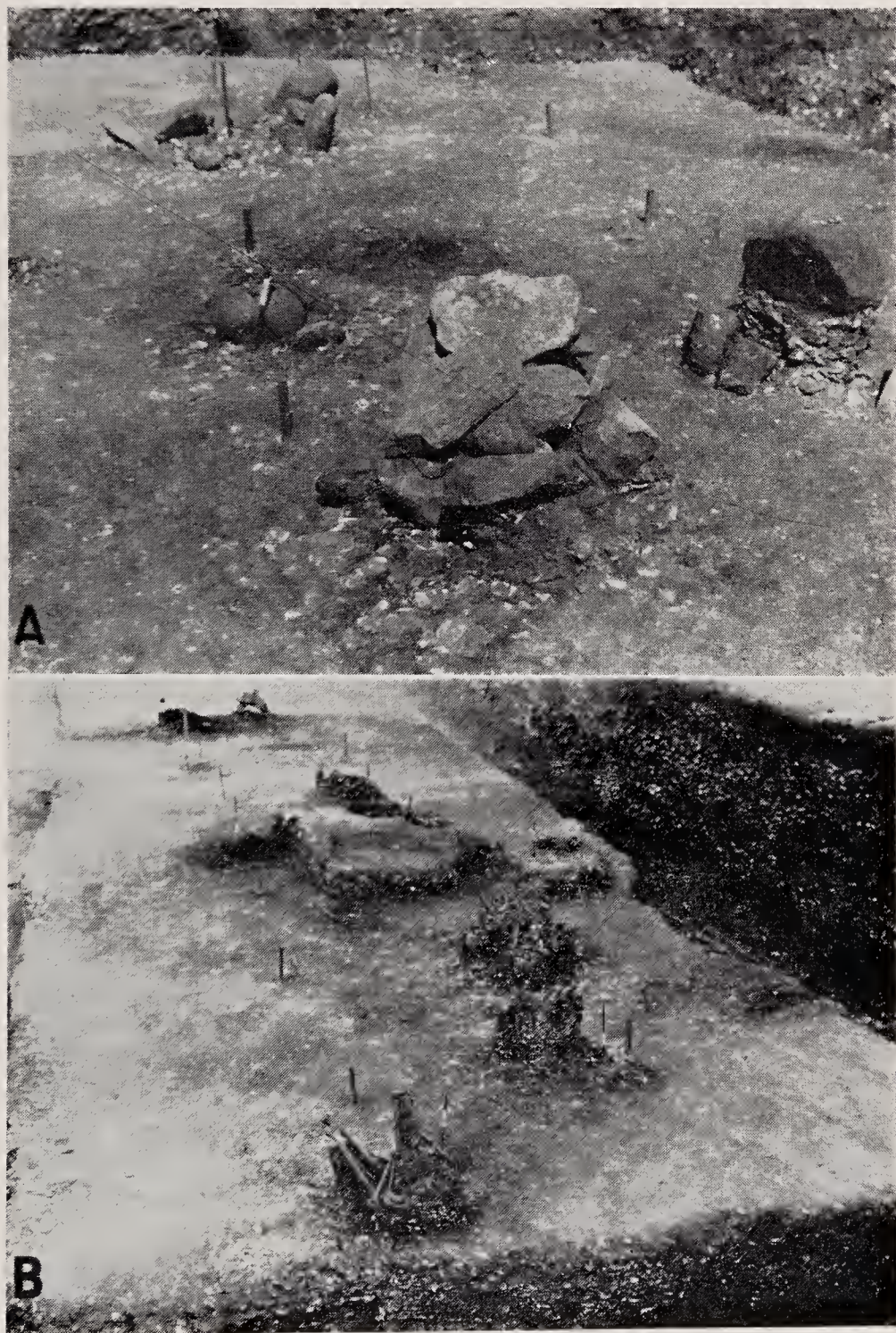


Figure 5. (a) Stone covered burials, Block 1.
(b) Block 1, with stone and second foot level removed, burials in situ.

to damage skeletal material at this site was the very considerable use by these shell midden dwellers of large stones to cover burials. Many burials had large stone slabs or river boulders laid upon them. These stones were not placed in any ordered manner and had by their weight, in every case crushed and broken the bones, so that skeletal preservation was very poor. This practice, which is occasionally seen in all shell mounds, was rather general at this site. It is usually associated with burials in a sitting posture, which occur most frequently in the Archaic 3 period. Figure 5-a shows some of the stone covered graves, and Figure 6-d shows Burial No. 72 covered with a pile of small stones.

In Zone D, about 3 feet deep, many of the sitting burials occurred. (See Figure 5-b). These are distinguishable by the "slump" which occurs after burial. This characteristic of displaced head and elevated knees is illustrated in Figure 6-C.

In Figure 7-a there is presented the open pit of sitting Burial No. 92. This is unique in that the pit is much larger than was necessary to hold the body at the time of burial. The skeleton shows the typical "slump" from a sitting posture, but with another unique feature, i.e., the steatite vessel in the grave pit is in an upright position. So regular is the custom of placing such stone bowls in an inverted position, and frequently over the head of the individual, that one wonders how this unique position came about. It is believed that here, too, at burial the bowl was inverted over the head, but due to the fact that the burial pit was quite large, the head had opportunity to fall forward at the time of "slumping" and later the bowl fell vertically downward. It came to rest at a point on the grave pit floor, perhaps 2 or 3 feet below its first position in the grave and in its passage downward, it being a fairly small bowl (see Figure 7a-), became inverted from its first position, and was thus left right side up. A careful examination of this grave seems to indicate that here, too, the usual custom was being followed.

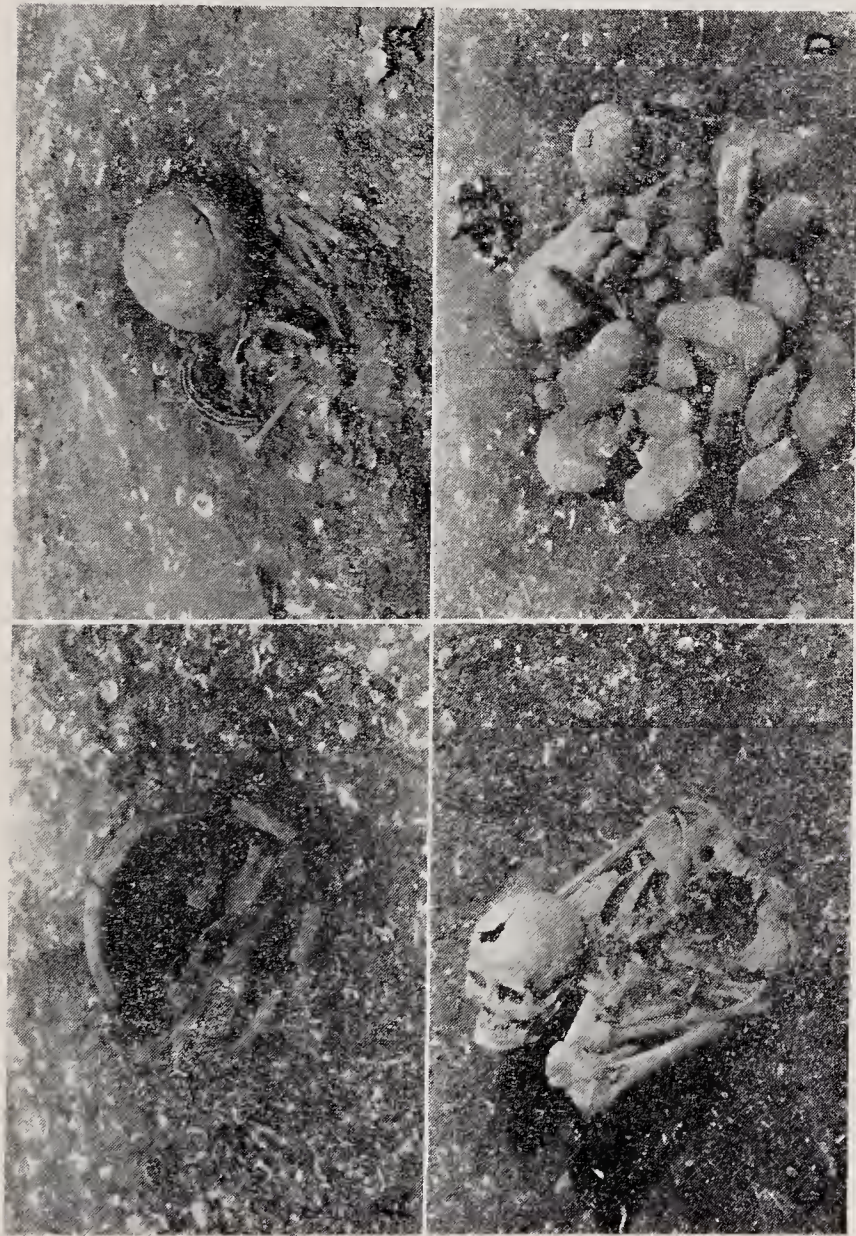


Figure 6. (a) Burial No. 9, only seven inches deep, sandstone vessel inverted over head, bottom cut away by plough.
(b) Burial No. 62 (child), head covered with sandstone vessel.
(c) Burial No. 20, in sitting position.
(d) Burial No. 72, covered with small stones.



Figure 7. (a) Slumped sitting Burial No. 92 with small steatite bowl which was probably inverted over head, but in its fall became upright.
 (b) 1, 4, two of the four cut dog mandibles with Burial No. 8.
 3, 5, shale gorget and antler drift from Burial No. 47.
 6, deer ulna spatula from Burial No. 49.
 13, 14, 16, sheet copper arm band, copper spatula and copper "spangle," broken, from Burial No. 51.
 7, bone awl with Burial No. 58.
 2, bone pin with Burial No. 84.
 9, 10, two flint points with Burial No. 95.
 15, redstone cylindrical bead with Burial No. 101.
 11, 12, flint points with Burial No. 102.

Burial Associations

Forty-two burials had artifacts or other association and are briefly described as follows:

No.	Burial		Associations	Illus. Fig. No.	Time Horizon
	Form	Depth			
8	P. F.	.6	Four cut dog (?) mandibles, some broken.	7b	P1
9	Dist.	.8	Sandstone bowl flange handles, inverted over head of skeleton. Bottom cut out by plow.	6a	A3
10 and 11	Ex. P. F.	1.3 1.1	Four limestone celts, 3 flaked, 2 broken, one pecked, with tapering truncated poll. Flint point Type 9, and two broken points.		P2 P2
21	P. F.	1.1	Two limestone celts, flaked, broken.		P2
31	F. F.	1.1	Sandstone bowl elliptical, two knob handles, small shell disc beads.	9b	A3
34	P. F.	2.6	Antler drift.		A3
37	F. F.	1.3	Two limestone celts, flaked, broken.		P2
40	?	1.5	Steatite bowl, elliptical, two flange handles inverted over infant skeleton.	10b	A3
45	P. F.	1.5	Flint blade, leaf shaped, finely chipped, 23.5 cm. long.		
47	F. F.	2.1	Shale gorget centrally expanded truncated ends. 3 biconical perforations, antler drift elliptical x-section, 110 mm. long.	7b	P2
49	F. F.	2.0	Deer ulna spatula, unfinished slot fish hook, blank.		
51	Re. B.	1.8	Sheet copper arm band, crushed, sheet copper spatulate object, broken, sheet copper conical spangle. Infant.	7b	P2
57	Sit.	1.2	Limestone hoe flaked with two side notches.		P2
58	Sit.	1.3	Bone awl cylindrical 137 mm.		
62	F. F.	2.3	Two limestone hoes, one with side notches, flint side scraper, 18 fragments of sandstone bowl, sandstone bowl, two knob handles, inverted over head of skeleton.	9b 6b	 A3

No.	Burial		Associations	Illus. Fig. No.	Time Horizon
	Form	Depth			
68	F. F.	4.6	Sandstone bowl, inverted over head of skeleton.		A3
69	F. F.	3.0	11 conch columella beads cylindrical grooved at one end.		P2
70	F. F.	2.0	Conch columella shell pendant cylindrical grooved at one end.		
72	F. F.	4.0	Limestone axe, ground, three quarter flanged grooved, and limestone celt flaked.	6a	A3
73	F. F.	4.0	Cut antler fragment.		
74	F. F.	3.7	Seven large fragments of portion of crushed sandstone bowl which fitted together, two flint points T-55 and T-16.		A3
75	F. F.	1.8	110 shell beads, disc 5 to 9 mm. diameter.		
76	F. F.	2.8	Antler drift 68 mm. long, limestone hoe flaked two side notches, limestone celt flaked, and flint point, T-16.		A3
79	F. F.	3.2	Limestone hoe, flaked, broken, 64 fragments of sandstone bowl (not restorable) with flange handle. Shell beads 10 large cylindrical, 2 large disc, 14 small disc.		A3
80	F. F.	2.5	29 shell beads disc 5 to 7 mm. diameter, flint point T-A, 2 fragments sandstone bowl.		A3
81	F. F.	3.3	Shell gorgets, top of conch, 2 perforations, shell beads 927 disc 4 mm. to 15 mm. diameter, 10 cylindrical 8 mm. to 27 mm. long, 5 cylindrical columella pendants perforated at one end, one large shell disc, 3 fragments of rim of sandstone bowl.		A3
83	F. F.	2.6	3 shell beads, large disc.		
84	P. F.	.7	Bone pin cylindrical, expanded head, 2 limestone celts, flaked, 2 limestone hoes, flaked, broken.		P2
85	F. F.	.9	3 limestone beads, large excavate cylindrical.		P2
90	Sit.	1.3	Sandstone bowl fragment.		A3
92	Sit.	2.3	Steatite bowl in grave.	9a, 12a	A3

No.	Burial		Associations	Illus. Fig. No.	Time Horizon
	Form	Depth			
93	P. F.	2.1	Shale gorget centrally expanded, rounded ends, flat, 2 biconical perforations, 184 mm. long, maximum width 60 mm., shale fragment, terrapin carapace fragment, tarso-metatarsus awls of turkey, 2 antler drifts, one cylindrical 8 x 63 mm., one elliptical x-section 52 mm. long, two antler sections central elliptical hole (arrow shaft wrench or straightener?), flint projectile points T-9, T-55, T-13.	8b	P2
95	Dist.	5.0	Two flint points T-13, T-28. Limestone celt, flaked, broken. Sandstone bowl fragment, 2 steatite bowl fragments.		A3
96	Sit.	1.4	Two steatite bowls, one with flange handle, shell beads, 42 medium disc, one large cylindrical.	9c, 10a	A3
98	F. F.	2.8	Antler drift elliptical x-section, 66 mm. long.		
101	F. F.	2.4	Redstone bead, cylindrical, biconical perforation, 7 mm. diameter, 20 mm. long.		
102	Dist.	2.4	2 flint points, T-55.		
107	Sit.	3.0	Limestone hoe flaked, two side notches.		A3
108	Sit.	3.5	Limestone celt, flaked, broken, sandstone bowl fragment, 2 flint points T-13, T-55.		A3
109	Sit.	3.7	Flint drill made from T-U-P projectile point, 3 flint points T-9, T-13, T-13.		A3
111	P. F.	3.4	Flint end scraper.		

From an inspection of these burial forms and associated artifacts, it is apparent that these burials represent an undiluted shell-mound complex. The grooved axes, limestone celts, chipped notched limestone hoes, shale gorget and associated artifacts, all point at a "pure" cultural manifestation. The considerable number of sandstone and steatite vessels in burial association is notable as indicating occupancy in the Archaic 3 period and pointing to cultural affiliation with the Flint River Site Ma^o48. Attention should be called to the considerable number of those vessels inverted over the body, usually over the head, when put in burial association. It would appear that in placing such stone vessels in graves, their purpose was to serve as a protection—a mask for the face, perhaps, rather than a receptacle for the

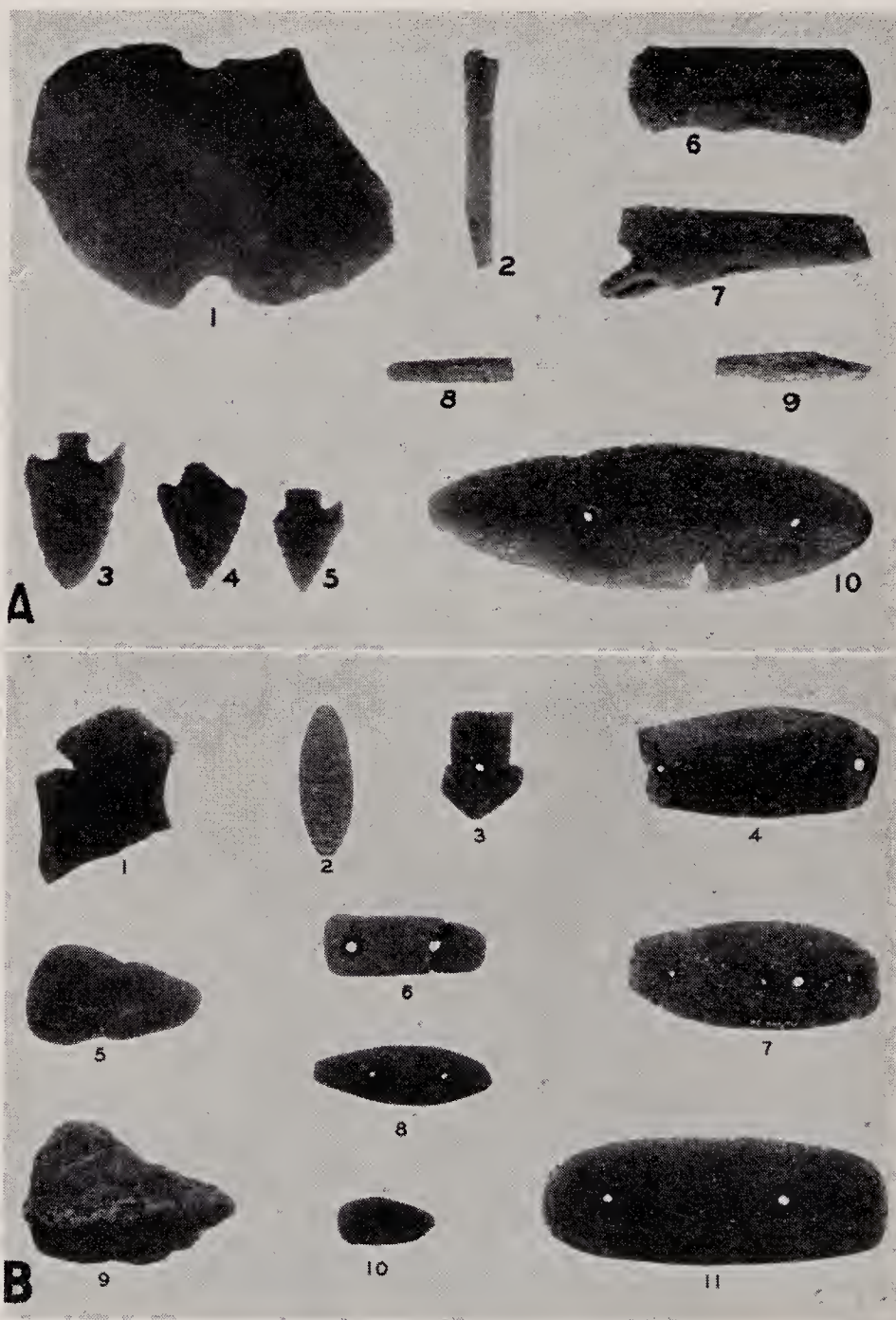


Figure 8. (a) 1, grooved hoe with Burial No. 62.
 2 to 10 inclusive, with Burial No. 93.
 (b) 1, shale gorget, terrapin carapace replica.
 2, 3, 6, 10, stone bars.
 5, grooved hematite.
 4, 7, 8, 11, bar gorgets.
 9, steatite bowl fragment, flange handle.

deposit of food as seems to have been the case when pottery vessels are included in burials of the Koger Island Complex* or any occupancy of the Pottery 3 period.

Artifacts From Burial Association

One of the outstanding artifact traits at this site is the occurrence of sandstone and steatite vessels in burial association. The following table gives the dimension and association of five steatite and two sandstone vessels, six of which were found in graves. One steatite bowl, specimen 40, was found in the midden on the boundary between Zone B and Zone D, at a point where Zone C has thinned out and disappeared.

It is clear that these vessels were used not only in burial association, but were first of all utility vessels, as indicated by the broken fragments which occur concentrated in Zone D. Some 204 steatite fragments and some 182 sandstone fragments, found in the excavation, may indicate the relative use of the two materials, i.e., 52% steatite to 48% sandstone. They thus seem to have been used in about equal proportions and at the same time, i.e., in the Archaic 3 period.

Other artifacts from burial association are illustrated in Figures 7-b and 8-a. The two so-called "bar gorgets," both of shale, gave no indication in the grave as to their possible use. The term gorget implies that in some way the artifact was suspended from or worn on or about the neck of the individual. There is nothing here to confirm any such suggestion, so that the terms may be quite inappropriate. Some 24 other similar artifacts, made of several different stones, were found in the midden, nearly all of which were similarly perforated. Since it is clear these people used the atlatl, these so-called stone bar gorgets may well be atlatl weights. This suggestion seems supported by the occurrence of stone bars, somewhat "boatstone" shaped, which are known to be atlatl weights. One specimen with incised engraving is shown in Figure 8-b.

The small number of other burial associations at this site presents only a partial picture of the total material culture complex, but it is sufficient to show that notched stone hoes, cut animal jaws and antler shaft straighteners were associated with the use of broad bladed stemmed flint projectile points. The use of copper, beaten into thin sheets and then cut or rolled into simple forms, was just beginning.

*Webb, Wm. S., and DeJarnette, David L., 1942. p. 235.



Figure 8. (a) Steatite bowl with Burial No. 92.
(b) Sandstone bowl with Burial No. 31.
(c) Steatite bowl with Burial No. 96.
(d) Sandstone bowl with Burial No. 62.



Figure 10. (a) Steatite bowl with Burial No. 96.
(b) Steatite bowl with Burial No. 40.

TABULATION OF
Mav10—WHOLE AND RESTORED STONE BOWLS

Specimen Number	Description	Horizontal Outline At Lip	Base	Maximum Horizontal Dimensions	Height	Location or Association	Special Features	Number
40	Steatite bowl (partially restored)	roughly elliptical	flat	?	7.0"	65L150 Zone B		
42	Sandstone bowl	elliptical	round	8.5"x9.25"	6.5"	Burial No. 31	Two "knob-handles"	9-b
48	Steatite bowl (partially restored)	elliptical	?	13.5"x14.5"	?	Burial No. 40	Two flange handles. Three perforations on one side with intervening crack.	10-b
232	Sandstone bowl	round	round	5.75"x7.75"	5.75"	Burial No. 62	Two "knob-handles"	9-d
983	Steatite bowl	round, asymmetrical	flat	4.75"x5.0"	2.5"	Burial No. 92		9-a
1264	Steatite bowl	subrectangular asymmetrical	slightly flat	6.5"x9.0"	6.0"	Burial No. 96	A $\frac{3}{4}$ " x 2" flange handle protrudes $\frac{1}{8}$ " from vessel wall directly below lip. Vessel broken on opposite side.	9-c
1265	Steatite bowl	elliptical subrectangular	flat	9.5"x14.25"	7.5"	Burial No. 96		10-a

Depth Distribution of ARTIFACTS FROM GENERAL EXCAVATIONS

Artifacts from general excavations, and not in burial association are shown in the following tabulation. Their depth distribution is shown by zones where that is known. Refuse contained all material without record of any kind. As previously explained no record of depth was kept of material coming from isolated trenches, and Blocks 4 and 5 were not excavated by zones but by foot levels, hence, the material from these blocks is designated "Blocks—no zones." However, the excavation by foot levels for Blocks 4 and 5 points to precisely the same distribution in depth as that indicated for zones.

Zone	A	B	C	C&D	D	D&E	E	Blocks No Zones	Trenches	Refuse	Total Site
Stone											
Celts, flaked	5	4	2		241	5	9	55	200	42	563
Hoes, flaked	3	15	1		205	16	12	28	157	26	463
Hoes, flaked, side-notched		2			52	4	12	8	62	9	149
Bowls, steatite									1		1
Bowl fragments, steatite	2	5	9		70	9		23	54	32	204
Bowls, standstone											
Bowl fragments, sandstone		8	1		41	52	1	5	57	17	182
Axes, grooved		1			9				7	1	18
Celts, ground					2		1		4	2	9
Abraders, grooved					12	1	1		13	1	30
Bar gorgets		6			7		1	1	8	1	24
Bars	1	1			2		1		1		6
Hammerstones		1				1			1		3
Pipes, tubular							1		7	3	11
Abraders, flint and chalcedony					5			1	2	2	10
Weights or sinkers, grooved					3	1			2	1	7
Pestles, bell-shaped									2	1	3
Hematite, grooved, ground									1		1
Stone gorgets (terrapin carapace replica)							1				1
Shale pendant, triangular, perforated					1						1
Worked stone fragments		4			14	1	2	2	10	3	36
Bone											
Cylindrical awls		4			24	2	2	10	9	8	59
Elliptical awls		1		1	9	6		6	1	3	27
Split bone awls		13	3		74	15	2	41	35	12	195
Splinter awls			1	1	54	2	2	21	26	5	112
Cannon bone awls									1	1	2
Deer ulna awls					3				5		8
Awls or pins, bird or small mammal, obliquely cut					8	1		4	2		15
Tarso-metatarsus awls or pins		2			4	3	1	9	3	3	25
Pins		2	1		11			4	5	2	25
"Bitted awls"		1			1						2
Projectile points			1		4	1		6	5	3	20
Worked mandible sections					2			2	3	2	9
Fishhooks					1		1	1		1	4
Spatulae, splinter		1			10			4	6	2	23
Spatulae, deer ulna								2		2	4
Slotted spatulae					4			4	5	4	17
Deer ulna spatulae, slotted		1			1				2		4
"Bifurcated," splinters		1	1	1	26	2	3	25	11	5	75
"Bifurcated," deer ulna		1			9	2		19	5	6	42
Long bone sections, double tapered, grooved					1			1	2	1	5
Worked fragments			2		29		2	16	15	11	75
Antler											
Antler tine flakers		2			31	4	4	15	6	10	72
Antler drifts		2			38	4	2	14	26	15	101
Antler handle (?)							1				1
Antler projectile point, socketed		1									1
Antler section, ground, perforated										1	1
Incised antler fragment									1		1
Worked fragments		2			5	1		18	23	4	53
Shell											
Beads, disc (occurrences)					1						1
Beads, cylindrical (occurrences)					2						2
Perforated conch whorl, fragment										1	1
Types	11	81	22	3	1,016	133	62	347	786	243	2,704

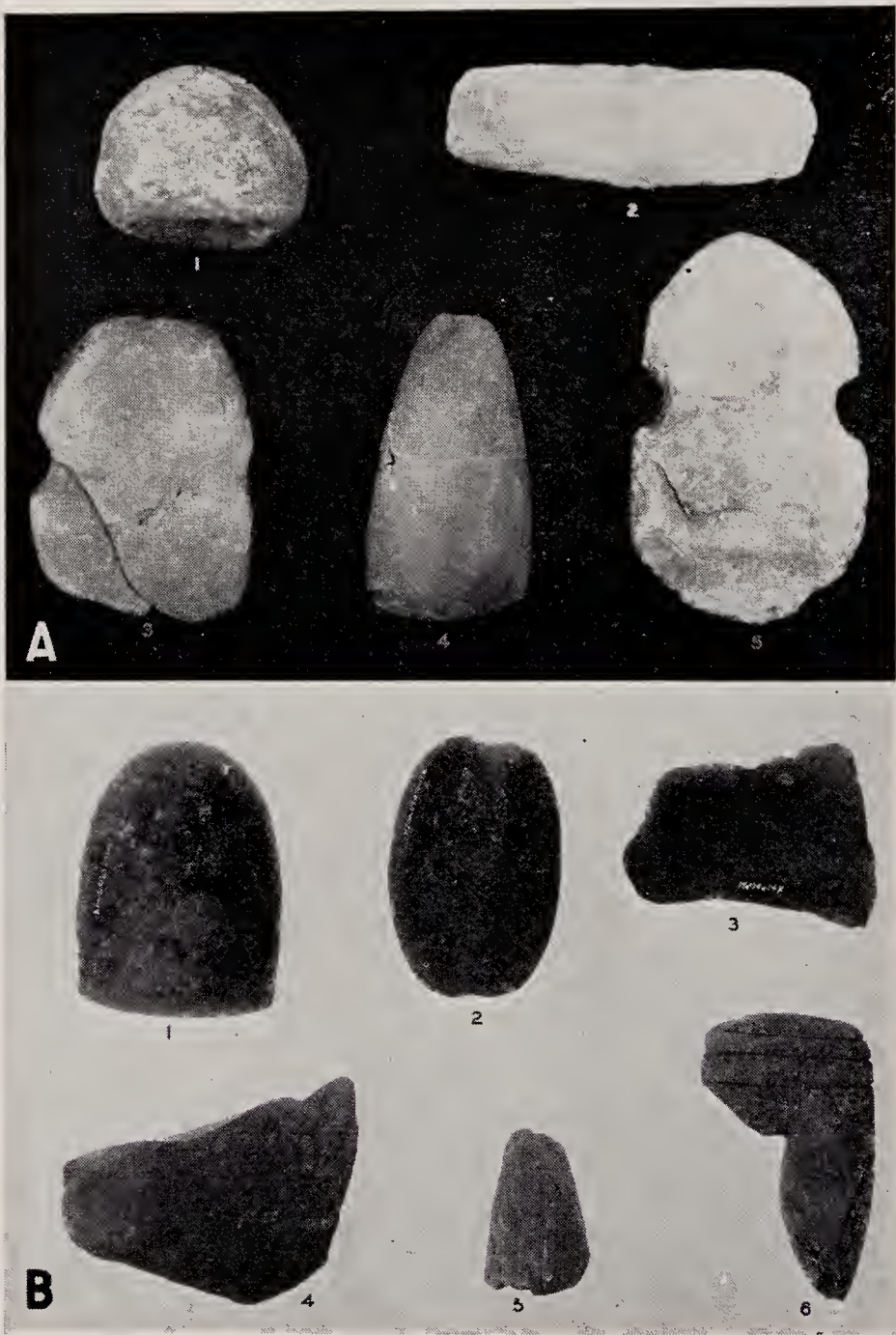


Figure 11. (a) Stone Artifacts.

- 1, chalcedon abrader.
 - 2, limestone celt, flaked.
 - 3, limestone axe, grooved.
 - 4, limestone celt ground.
 - 5, limestone hoe side notched.
- (b)
- 1, pebble pestle.
 - 2, grooved sinker.
 - 3, shale whetstone or abrader.
 - 4, sandstone bowl fragment, knob handle.
 - 5, 6 tubular pipe fragments.

Artifacts not in Burial Association

Stone

Celts, flaked—Of a total of 563, all were of limestone except one chert, one shale and one sandstone, see illustration Figure 11-a-2.

Hoes, flaked—Of a total of 463, all were limestone except one of greenstone. This specimen was found in Zone A.

Hoes, flaked, side-notched—All 149 were of limestone except four, two of which were slate and two of shale. Figure 11-a-5 shows a typical specimen.

Bowls, steatite and bowl fragments—Steatite bowl fragments showed:

1. Three basal fragments indicating flat bottomed bowls.
2. Two occurrences of "flange handles."
3. Ten fragments with perforations, both conical and biconical. Six of these perforated fragments were rims.

Sandstone bowls and bowl fragments—Sandstone bowl fragments showed:

1. Nine occurrences of short knob handles.
2. One perforated fragment.

Axes, grooved—Of 18 grooved axes, all were of limestone except two of quartzite and three of slate. Three of the axes were fully grooved, eight were $\frac{3}{4}$ grooved, and the remaining seven were broken so that the extent of the groove was not determinable. Combined pecking and grinding were extensively used in shaping the axes. All of the axes showed grinding except two which appeared to have been shaped by pecking without grinding. Figure 11-a-3 illustrates grooved limestone axe.

Celts, ground—Only nine were found. All were made of limestone except two greenstone and one schist. See Figure 11-a-4. One schist and one greenstone and one greenstone fragment were found in trenches, depth unknown. Of limestone celts, there were two in Zone B, one in Zone E, and two fragments of limestone celts in Zone D.

Bar gorgets—Of the 24 bar gorgets (not including the two shale gorgets in burial associations), nine were slate, nine shale, three limestone, two steatite and one gneiss. Only one of the gorgets failed to show perforations. Four of the gorgets had incised line decorations. See Figure 11.

Bars—Of the six stone bars, four were steatite and two limestone. See Figure 11.

Hammerstones—Two were battered pebbles and one was limestone. See Figure 11-b-1.

Pipes, tubular—There were eleven fragments of these conical tubular pipes found in the midden, but none in burial association. Three of these fragments showed incised line decoration as illustrated in Figure 11-b-5, 6. It is to be doubted that these were true pipes in the sense that they were used primarily for smoking. Probably, they were, as Willoughby* has called similar artifacts, "Shaman's Medicine Tubes." The pipe shown in Figure 11-b-6 is quite similar to the one illustrated by Willoughby. Figure 51-b.

Abraders, flint and chalcedony—Five were of flint and five of chalcedony. Six of the ten abraders were roughly spherical in shape, three were roughly discoidal and one hemispherical. Extensive roughening of the surface (apparently by battering) and subsequent abrasion of the roughened surfaces (producing facets) are characteristic of these abraders.

Weights or sinkers, grooved—Five were made of limestone and two were made from water-worn, sandstone pebbles. Four of the specimens were fully grooved; one was $\frac{1}{2}$ grooved; and two were too broken to determine the extent of the groove on the original intact specimen. See Figure 13-3.

Pestles, bell-shaped—Two were of limestone and one was made from a water-worn pebble.

Hematite, grooved, ground—This specimen shown in Figure 14-5 may have served as a source of red pigment or as an abrading or polishing stone.

Gorget (terrapiu carapace replica)—This fragment made of hematitic shale (with very high iron oxide content) is apparently a portion of a once complete stone object representing a terrapiu (or turtle) carapace. The fragment is curved as a carapace. It shows one conical perforated, drilled from the inside of the specimen. See Figure 14-1.

Shale pendant, triangular, perforated—This specimen appears to have been fashioned from the end of a shale bar gorget.

*Willoughby, Charles C., 1935, p. 99.

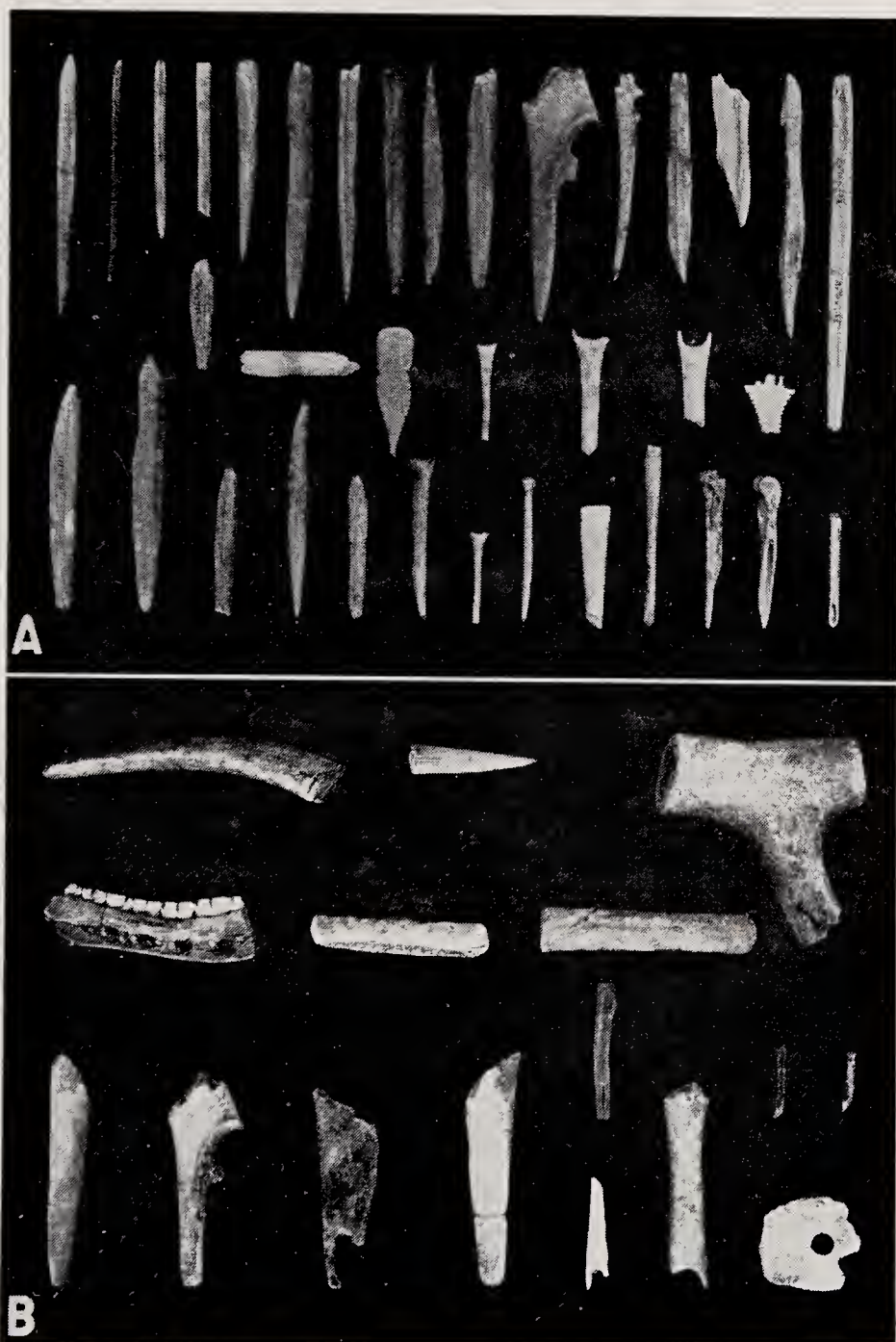


Figure 12. (a) Awls of various forms made from split cannon bones of deer, bird bones, ulna of deer, ulna of small mammals. (b) Cut antler sections, flakers, drifts, projectile points, cut deer mandible, bifurcated bone spatula, fishhook fragments.

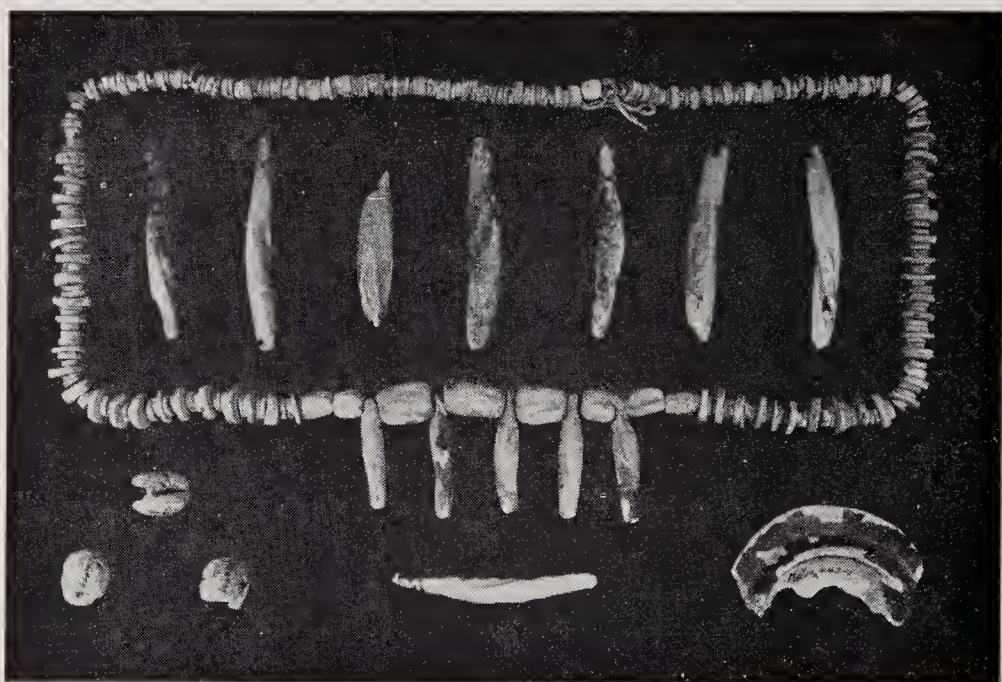


Figure 13. Part of string of 927 disc shell beads, 10 cylindrical shell beads and 5 columella pendants, and tip of conch shell gorget from Burial No. 81.

Three limestone beads, large excurvate, cylindrical, at lower left, from Burial No. 85.

Conch columella pendant grooved at one end from Burial No. 70.

Seven of 11 conch columella pendants from Burial No. 69.

Bone

Awls of various form are listed in the tabulation of artifact and some are illustrated in Figure 12-a.

Split bone awls—There were 195 found, largely concentrated in Zone D. They were the usual pointed section of split long bones.

Splinter bone awls—These are distinguished from split bone awls in that they are pointed sections of bone broken by what seems a twisting motion and show no evidence of longitudinal splitting. They, too, were concentrated in Zone D.

Cylindrical awls and those of elliptical cross-section—These show more work in attempts to smooth the surface. Many of the large specimens with circular or elliptical cross-section may have been hairpins.

Cannon bone awls—Two such awls were found made from cannon bone of deer.

Deer ulna awls—These were only slightly modified by pointing the distal end. Eight were found.

Awls made from bird or small mammal bones—These are made by cutting the bone obliquely and sharpening the cut end. Of a total of 15, one was made from a canine ulna.

Worked mandible sections—Eight of the total of nine were of deer, and one was canine. One deer section is shown in Figure 12.

Fishhooks—Only four were found, but many bifurcated bone splinters and deer ulna spatula, some slotted and some bifurcated, seem to indicate that the manufacture of fishhooks from spatula was a common practice.

Antler

These are shown in Figure 12-b.

Antler tine flakers and drifts were fairly numerous and of the usual types, but it is remarkable that only one antler projectile point was found—only one antler handle of doubtful quality was reported and no atlatl antler hooks were found.

Shell

Shell artifacts were not numerous at this site. Some burial associations are illustrated in Figure 13.

Beads were of disc form only. Shell pendants made from conch columella were perforated at one end, but also grooved at one end for suspension. Only a single shell "gorget" made from end of conch shell was found. It had two perforations.

POTTERY STUDY

By Marion L. Dunlevy

Forty-five hundred pottery sherds were recovered from the Whitesburg Bridge Site. Representative type sherds are shown in Figure 26. Material from various blocks has been tabulated separately in view of the use of several methods of vertical separation. An initial analysis by square indicated a scattered distribution both areally and vertically. It will be noted from the tabulations of Blocks 1 and 2 that a relatively small quantity of pottery was found in Zone B and only a few sherds in Zone D. The pottery of this block was preponderantly limestone tempered and the abundance of the fabric marked type is noteworthy.

BLOCKS 1 and 2

Zone	Type	Block 1	Block 2	Total by Type	Percentage by Type	Total by Temper	Percentage by Temper
B	1a Wheeler Plain	3	1	4	1.20	4	1.20
	2a O'Neal Plain	6		6	1.79		
	2f Alexander Pinched	1		1	.30	7	2.09
	3a Mulberry Creek Plain	12	2	14	4.19		
	3b Long Branch Fabric Marked	257	48	305	91.32		
	3c&d Wright Check Stamped	2		2	.60		
	Unclassified Limestone—tempered	2		2	.60	323	96.71
	Total	283	51	334	100.00	334	100.00
D	1a Wheeler Plain	1		1	3.45	1	3.45
	3a Mulberry Creek Plain	4		4	13.79		
	3b Long Branch Fabric Marked	15	8	23	79.31	27	93.10
	5a Plain Shell	1		1	3.45	1	3.45
	Total	21	8	29	100.00	29	100.00
Total for Blocks 1 and 2		304	59	363			

The major portion of the pottery in Block 3 also occurred in Zone B. The preponderance of limestone-tempered fabric marked pottery is again marked, and the increase in the relative percentage of fiber-tempered ware in Zone C is conspicuous.

BLOCK 3

Zone	Type	Number of Sherds	Percentage by Type	Total by Temper	Percentage By Temper
A	2a O'Neal Plain	3	2.86		
	2f Alexander Pinched	1	.95	4	3.81
	3a Mulberry Creek Plain	12	11.43		
	3b Long Branch Fabric Marked	87	82.85		
	3c&d Wright Check Stamped	2	1.91	101	96.19
	Total	105	100.00	105	100.00
B	1a Wheeler Plain	6	.32	6	.32
	2b Alexander Incised	2	.11		
	2f Alexander Pinched	1	.05		
	2l Benson Fabric Marked	3	.16	6	.32
	3a Mulberry Creek Plain	12	.64		
	3b Long Branch Fabric Marked	1,878	97.97		
	3c&d Wright Check Stamped	11	.54		
	3e Bluff Creek Simple Stamped	2	.11		
	3f Pickwick Complicated Stamped	1	.05		
	Unclassified Limestone—Tempered	1	.05	1,905	99.36
	Total	1,917	100.00	1,917	100.00
C	1a Wheeler Plain	20	71.43	20	71.43
	2a O'Neal Plain	1	3.57	1	3.57
	3b Long Branch Fabric Marked	6	21.43		
	3c&d Wright Check Stamped	1	3.57	7	25.00
	Total	28	100.00	28	100.00
Total for Block 3		2,050			

Blocks 4 and 5 yielded a preponderance of limestone-tempered pottery with more than three-fourths of that ware fabric marked. The relative abundance of sand-tempered types and the consistent and marked drop in relative percentage in successively lower levels appears to indicate more certainly than in any previous studies the chronological position of this ware.

BLOCKS 4 and 5

Level	Type	Block 4	Block 5	Total by Type	Percentage by Type	Total by Temper	Percentage by Temper
1 ¹	2a O'Neal Plain	7	2	9	1.46		
	2b Alexander Incised	4	---	4	.65		
	2c Smithsonia Zone Stamped	1	---	1	.16		
	2f Alexander Pinched	---	1	1	.16		
	2g Columbus Punctated	1	---	1	.16		
	2l Benson Fabric Marked	4	8	12	1.90	28	3.49
	3a Mulberry Creek Plain	50	2	52	8.40		
	3b Long Branch Fabric Marked	434	87	521	85.00		
	3c&d Wright Check Stamped	6	2	8	1.30		
	3e Bluff Creek Simple Stamped	1	2	3	.49		
	3f Pickwick Complicated Stamped	1	---	1	.16		
	3n Flint River Brushed	---	1	1	.16	586	96.51
	Total	509	105	614	100.00	614	100.00
2'	1a Wheeler Plain	2	---	2	.43		
	1c Alexander Dentate Stamped	---	1	1	.21	3	.64
	2a O'Neal Plain	3	27	30	6.45		
	2b Alexander Incised	---	9	9	1.96		
	2c Smithsonia Zone Stamped	1	---	1	.21		
	2g Columbus Punctated	1	1	2	.43		
	2l Benson Fabric Marked	2	4	6	1.25	48	10.30
	3a Mulberry Creek Plain	33	19	52	11.16		
	3b Long Branch Fabric Marked	169	181	350	75.30		
	3c&d Wright Check Stamped	4	4	8	1.75		
2'	3e Bluff Creek Simple Stamped	1	---	1	.21		
	Unclassified Limestone-Tempered	2	---	2	.43	413	88.85
	5a Plain Shell	1	---	1	.21	1	.21
	Total	219	246	465	100.00	465	100.00
3'	2a O'Neal Plain	---	5	5	21.60		
	2b Alexander Incised	---	1	1	4.35		
	2l Benson Fabric Marked	1	---	1	4.35	7	30.30
	3a Mulberry Creek Plain	---	2	2	8.70		
	3b Long Branch Fabric Marked	13	1	14	61.00	16	69.70
	Total	14	9	23	100.00	23	100.00
4'	2f Alexander Pinched	1	---	1	25.00		
	2l Benson Fabric Marked	2	---	2	50.00	3	75.00
	3b Long Branch Fabric Marked	1	---	1	25.00	1	25.00
	Total	4	---	4	100.00	4	100.00
Total for Blocks 4 and 5		746	364	1,106		1,106	

The sand-tempered amounts to 3.49 per cent of the pottery in the 1' level, 10.30 per cent in the 2' level, 30.30 per cent in the 3' level and 75.00 per cent in the 4' level. The number of sherds is small, particularly in the 4' level, but the consistent and marked increase seems conclusive. On the basis of relative preponderance of the limestone-tempered ware and the statistical expectation of its occurrence, the percentage of sand in the lower levels is even more remarkable.

The site summary tabulation includes material from the five blocks, the trenches surrounding them and refuse. Viewing the pottery as a whole it may be noted that shell-tempered pottery is virtually absent (only 3 sherds of this were ever found). The pottery is preponderantly limestone-tempered and fabric marking is the characteristic surface finish. It is also evident that fabric marking of the same plain plaited fabric type is the most common decoration on the sand-tempered ware. Stratigraphy of types is not apparent but the number of sherds of any one type except the fabric marked is so small that the expectancy of occurrence in the few sherds of the earlier levels is low. The early popularity of the sand-tempered ware with a relative decrease in later levels and a corresponding increase in the limestone-tempered ware is evident.

SITE SUMMARY

Type	Number of Sherds	Percentage by Type	Total by Temper	Percentage by Temper
1a Wheeler Plain	58	1.29		
1c Alexander Dentate Stamped	1	.02		
1e Pickwick Simple Stamped	1	.02	60	1.33
2a O'Neal Plain	146	3.25		
2b Alexander Incised	23	.51		
2c Smithsonia Zone Stamped	4	.09		
2f Alexander Pinched	15	.33		
2g Columbus Punctated	3	.07		
2l Benson Fabric Marked	54	1.20		
2o Sauty Check Stamped	4	.09	249	5.54
3a Mulberry Creek Plain	238	5.29		
3b Long Branch Fabric Marked	3,884	86.34		
3c&d Wright Check Stamped	46	1.02		
3e Bluff Creek Simple Stamped	7	.15		
3f Pickwick Complicated Stamped	2	.04		
3g Sauty Incised	1	.02		
3h Flint River Cord Marked	1	.02		
3n Flint River Brushed	3	.07		
Unclassified Limestone	5	.11	4,187	93.06
5a Plain Shell	3	.07	3	.07
Total for Site	4,499	100.00	4,499	100.00

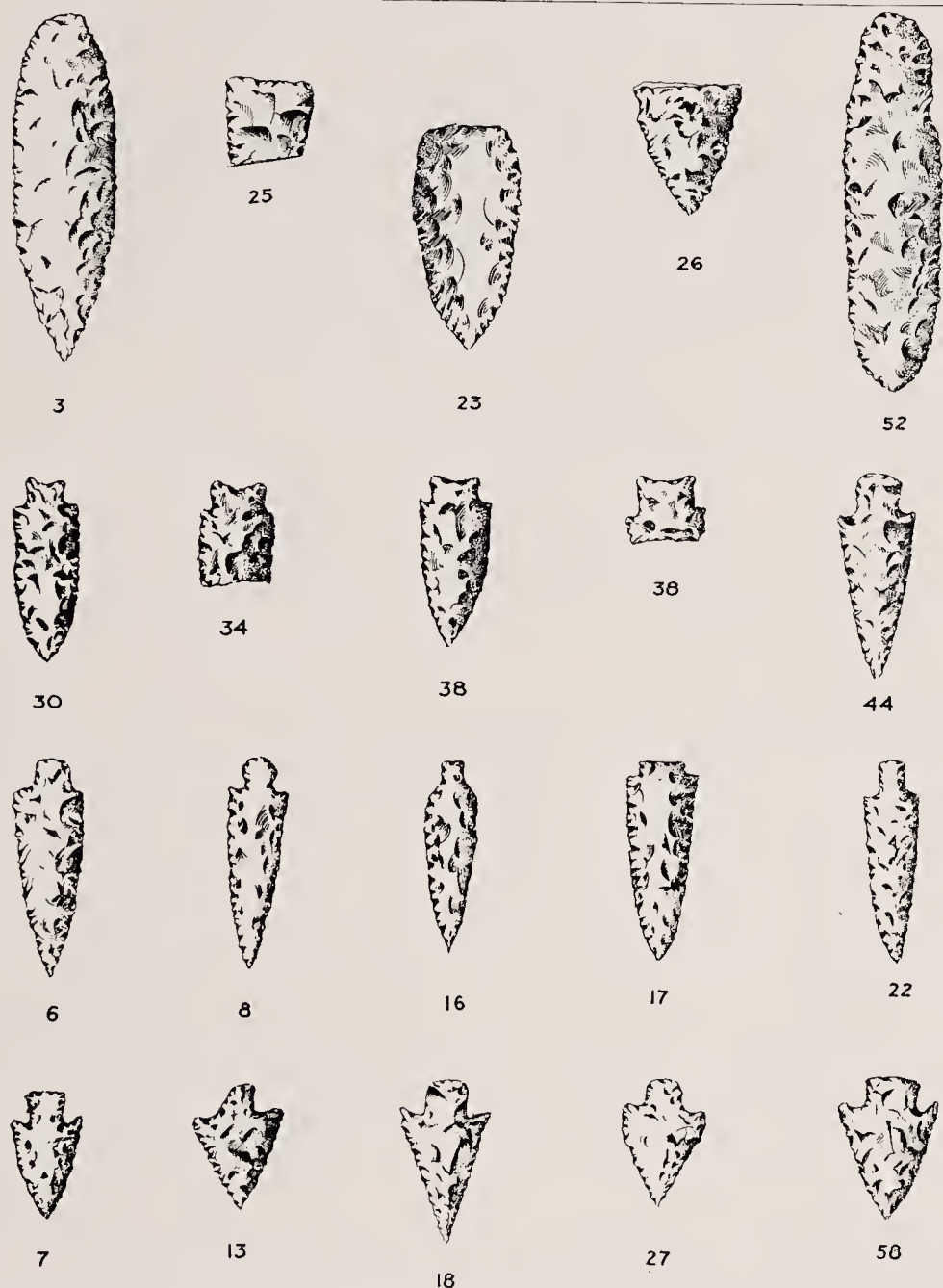


Figure 14. Some Tennessee River Valley flint types. Flint Types 3, 23, 25, 26 and 52 were abundant and dominant in Archaic 2 period. Flint Types 30, 34, and 38 were introduced, reached their maximum and became obsolete within Archaic 2 period. Flint Types 6, 8, 16, 17, and 22 were dominant in Archaic 3 period but continued on to Pottery 2 period where they reached their maximum along with Flint Type 44. Flint Types 7, 13, 18, 27 and 58 became important in Pottery 1 period and reached their maximum in Pottery 2 period. This classification follows that used for studying the flint types of the Pickwick Basin. See Webb and DeJarnette, 1942, pages 8-9.

Flint Study

Exclusive of burial associations, a total of 4,280 flint artifacts were taken from this excavation. They were classified by the type system set up for Guntersville Basin. The results of this classification are shown in the following tabulation which shows depth distribution by zones. In this tabulation there has been added in a parallel column the number designation for the same type in the Pickwick Basin classification.

In Figure 14 are shown some of the important type forms with their Pickwick Basin designations.

FLINT SUMMARY BY ZONES

(Excluding Burial Associations)

Guntersville		Zone						No. Zone	Trenches	Refuse	Site	Pickwick Type No.
Type	A	B	C	D	D&E	E						
A	21	38	15	313	22	22	190	178	163	962	23	
B	6	21	1	65	2	4	17	39	25	180	3	
C		5		4			2	5	8	24	1	
E	1	1		3				3	2	10	46	
G		2		1				4		7	2	
I	14	17	8	122	9	15	35	64	76	360	16	
II	1	6	2	49	4	1	3	25	23	114	16	
S	1	1	1	24	3	3	3	9	7	52	12	
K		2		4		1	2	2	1	12	45	
L	14	19	7	80	1	11	17	34	38	221	55	
M				5		2	4	4	6	21	29	
N	4	3	1	19	2	1	8	14	12	64	18	
O	1	10	4	30		3	4	13	10	75	13	
P	4	11	2	29	2	3	12	16	20	99	32	
PP	5	9		53	8	4	4	17	34	134	32	
Q	5	9	3	30		1	21	14	16	99	9	
R		1	1	3				1	3	9	28	
S	2	1		5			3	5		16	12	
T				3		1		4		8	28	
Scrapers (end)				1		1	3			5		
Drills (winged)	1	4		3		1	4	3	1	17		
Spalls (including Nodules, etc.)	8	27	45	155	20	4	232	126	142	759		
Broken												
Unclassified	33	74	22	185	10	16	215	155	165	875		
Uncl. unfin.	13	3	10	30	4	2	33	33	29	157		
TOTAL	134	264	122	1,216	87	96	812	768	781	4,280		

CONCLUSION

An inspection of the distributions tabulations of artifacts reveals how the cultural material was concentrated in Zone D. This is in part due to the fact that this zone was thicker and represented about one-half of the total midden. However, it has much more than half the total artifacts. Zone E also seems to have been relatively rich in cultural material. This is particularly significant when considered in the light of the distribution of pot sherds shown in the preceding tables. Zone E contains no pottery and Zone D so small an amount that it can properly be accounted for by intrusion from Zones B and C. The cultural complex, therefore, of Zones D and E is clearly a non-pottery complex. Due to the outstanding occurrence of steatite and sandstone vessels in Zone D, this Zone presents a typical manifestation of shell mound occupancy in the Archaic 3 period. Graves containing stone vessels in association are sometimes intruded to depths lower than the cultural level to which they belong. It is, therefore, desirable to consider the beginning of Archaic 3 as indicated by the presence of steatite and sandstone bowl fragments rather than by the bowls in burial association. An inspection of the depth distribution of broken bowl fragments indicates that Zone E was laid down before stone bowls were in use. Only one sandstone fragment is definitely reported from Zone E. Flint types 3 and 23 which are found in Archaic 2 period occur in Zone E, but there is no suggestion of a shop site in the midden or any evidence of concentrated working of flint. This would seem to indicate that when Zone E was laid down, the people had no steatite, but were well advanced in the use of flint and were, therefore, in the later part of the Archaic 2 period.

An inspection of the pottery distribution by zones shows that while fiber tempered pottery was not plentiful at this site, it did occur as a dominant form in Zone C. This zone was not thick and did not cover the whole area of occupancy, but clearly it indicates occupancy in Pottery 1 period.

The presence of large concentration of limestone pottery in Zones A and B, while many of the artifacts in these zones are quite similar to those in the non-pottery zones, D and E, would seem to suggest continuous occupancy by a single people

in Pottery 2 period who took on the manufacture of grit tempered pottery and continued to use many of the same types of artifacts in bone and stone as in the Archaic 3 period. After the Pottery 2 period, occupancy seems to have completely ceased. This site is remarkable in the fact that so little shell-tempered pottery was found there. Only two sherds with shell tempering were found in the whole excavation, and not a single burial which could be assigned to the Pottery 3 period.

This clearly means that in Pottery 3 times, very few, if any, of the so-called Middle Mississippi people or as designated in the Pickwick Basin, the Koger Island people, ever came on this site, and none used this shell midden for a cemetery.

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